Learning About Leadership From Innofest India 2.0

Captain Yashika Tyagi is an inspiration to all entrepreneurs. During her discussion at the **Innofest India 2.0** event, she delved into what it means to be a leader at the front. Hosted by the **Poddar Group of Institutions** and the **Federation of Unicorn Innovative Startup and Industries**, this edition of Innofest India brought together some of the brightest minds of the start-up and investment communities with students and entrepreneurs and was attended by more than 1,000 start-ups, 300 investors, and more than 1,000 students, as well as over 8,000 participants.

The Captain Yashika Tyagi tactical leadership talk stood out at this event for its innovative approach to entrepreneurship and leadership.

Founders and the Armed Forces

Leadership in the corporate world has been compared to the leadership of the armed forces. For a Founder, leadership doesn't merely infer giving instructions and making decisions. It means assuming responsibility, staying motivated during rough times, and making tough calls with limited knowledge. Captain Yashika Tyagi's time serving in the Army has given her a good deal of discipline which she readily shares with her audience. Her session explored how building a business involves a number of challenges for which the principles of leadership learned in the military can apply.

Markets are volatile for startups. Resources shut down. Plans fail. A founder who stays calm and evaluates next steps is usually better off.

This is a fairly simple lesson: **the best leaders aren't the ones that avoid obstacles. The best leaders are the ones who prepare for obstacles.**

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Discipline and Execution

Every founder has a vision. Vision without execution yields no results.

Converting goals into actions toward building a product, talking to customers, building a team, attracting investment and daily changes to the business are all areas that demonstrate discipline.

The leadership principles demonstrated by Captain Yashika Tyagi stressed consistency and the discipline of goal-focused execution. Even with ambitious initiatives, it is the disciplined execution of small tasks that accomplishes large goals.

For the entrepreneurs in the audience, this was a reminder that success is not the result of one large accomplishment, but the result of many small accomplishments.

Decisions in the Absence of Answers

There is a lot of uncertainty in entrepreneurship. There are no correct answers in a lot of cases.

Your decisions have to be made across the spectrum of launching a product, choosing a market, dealing with a crisis, assessing how to best utilise the resources you have and much more.

The military has refined the art of decision-making when things are the most unpredictable and has developed principles to focus efforts and prioritise effectively.

For founders, this means learning to separate urgency from importance. Not every problem requires an immediate reaction. Effective leaders understand what deserves their attention and make decisions based on facts, priorities and long-term objectives.

Resilience When Plans Change

Every startup has its obstacles.

A product launch that fails, late-stage funding runway issues, customer response that is not as expected, or the pivot to a new business strategy, these situations can be difficult for all founders.

The type of resilience stressed at Innofest was the ability to learn and continue after a setback.

Instead of thinking of failure as the end of the journey, founders can think of failure as a setback that provides them with next steps. Each setback can inform the next step and the new opportunities that lie ahead.

Building Teams, Not Just Businesses

A founder cannot build a successful company on their own. As a startup grows, leadership is more about people than it is about business.

Strong leaders help their teams focus on a shared goal. The characteristics of discipline, accountability and teamwork shed light on Captain Yashika Tyagi’s session and can be as critical in an entrepreneurial startup as they are in high-stress environments.

For the young participants, the session was more than just motivation. It gave participants a chance to develop the entrepreneurial skills of communication, decision-making, and leadership through a practical lens, creating valuable **Skill development opportunities for students**.

The Leadership Mindset Every Founder Needs

Captain Yashika Tyagi’s session offers a few useful lessons, including staying disciplined, remaining calm, adaptability to change, accountability, and focusing on the goal.

These lessons are definitely transferable off the battlefield. Any founder pursuing the transformation of a business idea understands this.

Because of this reason, **Innofest India** 2.0 is more than a usual gathering of startups. By hosting Captain Yashika Tyagi’s session, to name a few, the **Innofest India startup fest** created a learning space for the young from beyond the conventional world of business.

The event also demonstrated the importance of the **Academia role in startup ecosystem**, bringing students and aspiring entrepreneurs closer to real-world entrepreneurial experiences and industry leaders.

For all the founders, it is clear: a great idea starts a business, but strong leadership drives it to grow, create sustainable impact and achieve success.